

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021
at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr Michael Clarke (Chairman), Mr George Armstrong, Mrs Julie Martin and Mrs Sarah Jane Pattison

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Ms Sally Cooke)

70. Apologies for Absence

70.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Susan Escott.

71. Declarations of Interest

71.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interest.

72. Public Participation Time

72.1 As no members of the public raised any issues under this item, the Chairman moved to the next item.

73. Minutes

73.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 24 May and the extraordinary meeting held on 23 August 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

74. Finance

74.1 Expenditure

(a) It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payments made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1:

- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (July 2021) - £732.54
- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (August 2021) - £732.54

(b) The following payments approved under Delegated Powers following consultation with the Parish Council were noted:

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 1 2021/22) - £120.00
- Miss K Riglar - Clerk's salary and expenses (Quarter 1 2021/22) - £744.39

(c) The following item of expenditure was **resolved**:

- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – delegate fee for Code of Conduct and Register of Interests briefing - £30.00

74.2 Income

The following receipts were noted:

- HMRC – VAT refund for 2021/22 - £1,506.38
- Groundwork UK – Neighbourhood Planning grant 2021/22 - £6,017.00

75. Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan

- 75.1 The Parish Council considered the final version of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan, revised to reflect the amendments agreed at the extraordinary meeting held on 23 August. In particular, it was noted that this clarified the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and Kingston Maurward College's Masterplan and that any planning applications submitted by the College would be considered in the same way as for any applicant.
- 75.2 Members of the Parish Council welcomed the amended document and, with the exception of one typographical error in relation to Fiddler's Green, agreed that this should now be submitted to Dorset Council for consideration and inspection.
- 75.3 It was **resolved** that the final version of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan (as amended) now be submitted to Dorset Council, together with the required supporting documents.

76. Consultations

- 76.1 The Parish Council **resolved** to respond to the following consultations:

(a) Dorset Council Proposed Parking Charges Strategy

Parking charges should be as simple as possible for both residents and visitors to understand and that signage should communicate this clearly. Concerns were raised about the impact on local residents in the key tourist towns where the proposed parking charges would be significant.

Dorset Council should focus on the wider issue of parking in towns and encouraging alternatives to car-use. At the present time, there was a lack of access by bus and greater encouragement needed to be given to cycling into towns to reduce car journeys.

(b) Dorset Council Blue Badge holders parking survey

The national rules for the Blue Badge Scheme allowed for free parking for a period of 3 hours and this should be reflected in Dorset so as to be consistent for visitors to the area.

The proposals did not take account of short-term medical conditions which limited mobility and it was felt that a temporary Blue Badge should be made available to people with such conditions.

77. Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

- 77.1 The Parish Council considered the proposed Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy for Stinsford Parish. This comprised three parts in order to provide a flexible action plan. It was noted that timescales needed to be considered to launch the document and engage local residents in progressing actions and projects to address the emergency.
- 77.2 It was agreed that this was a very good starting point for the Parish Council to address the emergency but would need to be a 'living document' and be amended to

reflect updated data sets. Parish Councillors Ms Escott and Mrs Pattison were thanked for their efforts on drafting the Strategy.

77.3 It was proposed that a public meeting should be held to launch the Strategy but that it was important to know the position of Kingston Maurward College in relation to the Climate and Ecological Emergency and its actions to achieve net zero carbon, as it sat at the centre of the parish.

77.4 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) Sections 1 and 2 of the draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy be adopted as a 'living document' with the evidence base reviewed and updated as further data sets are issued;
- (ii) the Parish Council own the document and retain responsibility for decision-making in respect of the strategy;
- (iii) a public meeting (in person, potentially followed by a Zoom meeting) be held to launch the Declaration and Strategy and to engage local residents in a community group to help further develop Section 3 (the action plan) and progress mini projects locally;
- (iv) a briefing be sought from the Principal of Kingston Maurward College about the College's Green Agenda in October or November in advance of making any arrangements for a launch meeting.

78. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

78.1 The Parish Council considered the issue of road safety on Slyer's Lane. In addition to concerns previously raised about the road signs being obscured by vegetation and speed of traffic, an increasing number of industrial vehicles, including large HGV's, were using this as a route to the industrial estate in Piddlehinton. Whilst Piddle Valley Parish Council were consulted on developments in that area, the impact on Stinsford arising from through-traffic had not been considered. It was proposed that Piddle Valley Parish Council and Puddletown Area Parish Council be approached to consider how best to work together to provide joint responses to planning applications and developments which would impact all of the parish areas. It was considered that joint responses may carry greater weight with Dorset Council and would make stronger case for regulation. It was **resolved** that the neighbouring parish councils be approached to gauge their interest in liaison and joint working in relation to Slyer's Lane and the impact of traffic, etc on all of the parishes.

78.2 Mr Clarke reported that the refurbishment of white fingerpost at Bockhampton Cross was progressing with all elements currently being painted before assembly.

78.3 Concerns were expressed about the continuing degradation of the River Path with the expansion of the hole in the path and the potential risk to users of the path, particularly cyclists. It was **resolved** to request remedial action be taken to either fill the hole to reduce its size or an emergency cut be undertaken to enable users to traverse the path safely.

79. Maintenance of Parish Council assets

- 79.1 Lower Bockhampton Play Area – Mr Armstrong reported that he was awaiting a quote from the usual contractor for the maintenance works required to the play area equipment. He added that the bottom end of the are, nearest Knapwater, was very overgrown and he suggested that quotes be sought from local gardeners for clearing this. It was **resolved** that this be progressed.

- 79.2 Lower Bockhampton telephone box – Mr Armstrong reported that he had approached the residents of Spring Glen about the proposed maintenance of the telephone box and they were content with the proposals. Local residents had supported the proposed use of the kiosk as a ‘swap shop’ and also suggested that local businesses could use this for advertisements. Mr Armstrong confirmed that he would now circulate the proposals and a request for volunteers for the cleaning and painting of the telephone box via the local residents’ WhatsApp group.

- 79.3 Mr Clarke added that he had approached Kingston Maurward College about the accessibility of defibrillators on the estate and would share the response when received.

80. Delegation of Powers

- 80.1 The Parish Council reviewed the decision made on 24 May 2021, that
 - (i) authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to take any actions necessary with associated expenditure to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity, informed by consultation with members of the Parish Council; and
 - (ii) the scheme of delegation be reviewed no later than September 2021.

- 80.2 It was considered that as Covid case rates were currently rising and the progress of the pandemic was uncertain, it was sensible to retain the option to operate via delegation to the Clerk if it was felt that in-person meetings were not appropriate. It was **resolved** that the scheme of delegation should remain unchanged and be reviewed in March 2022.

81. Correspondence

- 81.1 There were no items of correspondence for consideration by the Parish Council.

82. Items for next/future Agenda

- 82.1 October (reserve) or November – briefing from Principal of Kingston Maurward College about its Green Agenda.

83. Dates of future meetings

- 83.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 11 October (reserve) and Monday 15 November 2021.

The meeting concluded at 8:32pm.

Chairman..... **Date**.....